REMARKS AND RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Prior to the examination of this application on the merits, please amend claims as shown on pages 2-9 of this paper. Applicants canceled claims 2, 3, 5, 6, 12-14, and 16-18 without prejudice. Applicants reserve the right to pursue the subject matter of canceled claims in this or related applications. Applicants added new claims 22-31 and amended claims 1, 4, 7, 8, 11, 14, and 15. Support for these amendments can be found, for example, in original claims 20-21 and on page 12, lines 22-28. New claims 22-31 belong to Group IV set forth in the restriction requirement dated September 27, 2004. No new matter has been introduced.

The Examiner required restriction under 35 U.S.C. § 121 between the following groups of claims:

Group I	Claims 1-11 and 14-15, drawn to various methods of treatment of disorders using a BAFF-R polypeptide or fragment thereof and BAFF[1];
Group II	Claims 1-7 and 13-15, as drawn to various methods of treatment of disorder using a BCMA-Ig;
Group III	Claims 1-7, 12, 14-15, and 17-18, drawn to various methods of treatment of disorders using an anti-BAFF-R antibody; or
Group IV	Claims 19-21, drawn to pharmaceutical compositions comprising an isolated BAFF-R polypeptide.

[1] BAFF is not recited in the claims. Applicants assume the Examiner meant that Group I is drawn to "various methods of treatment of disorders using a BAFF-R polypeptide or fragment thereof."

Applicants traverse the restriction with respect to Groups I and II on the following grounds. The restriction is based on the supposition that BAFF-R and BCMA are different products. This is incorrect. In this application, the terms BAFF-R and BCMA refer to the same product as stated in the specification, e.g., on page 1, lines 26-27; page 3, lines 25-26; page 6, lines 28-29; and page 7, line 6-30. Therefore, the restriction of Groups I and II is not proper.

Applicants provisionally elect to prosecute Group IV, claims 19-21 and new claims 22-31, drawn to pharmaceutical compositions comprising an isolated BAFF-R polypeptide. Should the claims to the pharmaceutical composition be found allowable, Applicants request rejoinder of claims of Groups I and II with claims of Group IV pursuant to M.P.E.P. § 821.04. Applicants request the Examiner to telephone the undersigned at the number below prior to rejoining the claims so that appropriate amendments to the rejoined claims can be made.

Applicants further bring to the Examiner's attention a co-pending continuation-in-part application No. 10/077,438, filed by Applicants on February 15, 2002 and previously cited in an Information Disclosure Statement filed on November 14, 2002.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to Deposit Account No. 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW,
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Dated: December 16, 2004

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